

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of processing a request for access to an Internet web site comprising the
2 steps of:
3 intercepting a web access request from a user containing an IP address of a target web
4 site;
5 directing the IP address to an authentication computer;
6 receiving a report from said authentication computer; and
7 directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive.
- 1 2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:
2 directing an override request to said user; and
3 directing said web access request to said target website when said user exercises an
4 override option.
- 1 3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:
2 directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive
3 without input from said user.
- 1 4. A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:
2 comparing said IP address of said target website with a previously stored valid IP address.
- 1 5. A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:
2 comparing said IP address of said target website with a list of suspect IP addresses.
- 1 6. A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:
2 comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a

3 criterion for acceptability.

4 7. A method according to claim 6, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
5 computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
6 comprises comparing received data from said target website with corresponding stored
7 data.

1 8. A method according to claim 7, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
2 computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
3 comprises sending incorrect data to said target website and comparing data received from
4 said target website in response to said incorrect data with corresponding stored data.

1 9. A method according to claim 6, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
2 computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
3 comprises capacity verification that the response capacity of said target website is greater
4 than a threshold value.

1 10. A method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of:
2 comparing said IP address of said target website with a previously stored valid IP address.

1 11. A method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of:
2 comparing said IP address of said target website with a list of suspect IP addresses.

1 12. A method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of:
2 comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a
3 criterion for acceptability.

4 13. A method according to claim 12, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
5 computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
6 comprises comparing received data from said target website with corresponding stored
7 data.

1 14. A method according to claim 13, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
2 computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
3 comprises sending incorrect data to said target website and comparing data received from
4 said target website in response to said incorrect data with corresponding stored data.

1 15. A method according to claim 12, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
2 computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
3 comprises capacity verification that the response capacity of said target website is greater
4 than a threshold value.

1 16. A system for carrying out a method of processing a request for access to an
2 Internet web site comprising:
3 means for intercepting a web access request from a user containing an IP address of a
4 target web site;
5 means for directing the IP address to an authentication computer;
6 means for receiving a report from said authentication computer; and
7 means for directing said web access request to said target website when said report is
8 positive.

1 17. A system according to claim 16, in which said means for intercepting a web
2 access request and said means for directing said web access request to said target website
3 are located within the workstation of an individual user.

1 18. A system according to claim 16, in which said means for intercepting a web
2 access request and said means for directing said web access request to said target website
3 are located centrally in a network containing a plurality of workstations of individual
4 users.

1 19. An article of manufacture in computer readable form comprising means for
2 performing a method for operating a computer system having a program, said method
3 comprising the steps of:
4 intercepting a web access request from a user containing an IP address of a target web
5 site;
6 directing the IP address to an authentication computer;
7 receiving a report from said authentication computer; and
8 directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive.

1 20. An article according to claim 19, further comprising a step of:
2 directing an override request to said user; and
3 directing said web access request to said target website when said user exercises an
4 override option.

1 21. An article according to claim 19, further comprising a step of:
2 directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive
3 without input from said user.

1 22. An article according to claim 19, further comprising a step of:
2 receiving a report from said authentication computer; and
3 directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive.

- 1 23. An article of manufacture in computer readable form comprising means for
2 performing a method for operating a computer system having a program, said method
3 comprising the steps of:
4 receiving from a user the IP address of a target web site in an authentication computer;
5 testing said target web site; and
6 sending a report to said user.
- 1 24. An article according to claim 23, further comprising a step of:
2 comparing said IP address of said target website with a previously stored valid IP address.
- 1 25. An article according to claim 23, further comprising a step of:
2 comparing said IP address of said target website with a list of suspect IP addresses.
- 1 26. An article according to claim 23, further comprising a step of:
2 comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a
3 criterion for acceptability.
- 1 27. An article according to claim 26, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
2 computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
3 comprises comparing received data from said target website with corresponding stored
4 data.
- 1 28. An article according to claim 27, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
2 computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
3 comprises sending incorrect data to said target website and comparing data received from
4 said target website in response to said incorrect data with corresponding stored data.

1 29. An article according to claim 26, in which said step of comparing behavior of the
2 computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability
3 comprises capacity verification that the response capacity of said target website is greater
4 than a threshold value.